

MANAGING ASSIGNED FINGERS IN CDMA TELECOMMUNICATION USING A
FINGER LOCK MECHANISM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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Managing assigned fingers in wireless telecommunication, such as Code
Division Multiple Access (CDMA), using a finger lock mechanism. The method
includes a series of steps, including a first step of receiving a finger assignment from a
searcher portion of a communication device. Next, the signal-strength of the finger
10 assignment is determined, and a time period over which the signal-strength exists is
determined. The finger assignment is then compared to multiple signal-strength
thresholds and to a time threshold. In the next step, the finger assignment is evaluated
for a combine operation based upon which of the aforementioned thresholds it
satiates. In particular, the finger assignment is enabled for a combining operation if it
15 is a newly finger assignment or if it continues to satiate a combine signal-strength
threshold. Alternatively, the finger assignment is not enabled for combining but neither
is it deassigned (e.g., a locked state) if it fails to satiate the combine signal-strength
threshold but does satiate the lock signal-strength threshold without exceeding the
time threshold. Lastly, control of the finger assignment is passed to the searcher if the
20 finger assignment fails to satiate the lock signal-strength threshold.